recommended in 1964 that Vice-Chancellor of University should be a distinguished educationist or eminent scholar and an exception to this recommendation should not be made on excuse for accommodating individuals who do not fulfil the condition; and

(b) if so, what is the number of Vice-Chancellors in our Universities who fulfil this condition as against total number of Vice-Chancellors?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such information is not maintained by UGC. Vice-Chancellors are appointed in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Acts/Statutes of the concerned Universities, keeping in view the recommendations/suggestions made by various commissions/committees in this regard from time to time.

Training to women under employment-cum-income generation-cum-production units in Gujarat

2886. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women are imparted training in new skills under the Employment-cum-Income Generation-cum-Production Units in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the annual number of women benefited from the programme during the last three years, till date, particularly in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surendranagar and Rajkot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of women benefited from the programme during the last three years, till date, in Ahmedabad district is 320. NORAD programme is not being implemented in Gandhinagar, Surendranagar and Rajkot districts.

UGC orders on eligibility for the post of lecturers

2887. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has issued

orders withdrawing the holders of Ph.D degree from NET eligibility for the post of lecturer in Universities and the constituent colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a lot of resentment among the Ph.D holders on this score and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The UGC considered the matter in its meeting held on 27.1.2000 and expressed concern about the standard of Ph.D. which vary from university-to-university and keeping Ph.D. as alternative qualification for NET leads towards recruitment of highly specialised persons in a narrow area and also inbreeding in the teaching posts. The Commission, therefore, decided that PH.D. holders may not be exempted from the NET and NET (or its equivalent examination accredited by the Commission) be made compulsory qualification for appointment as Lecturer, even for the candidates having Ph.D. degree.

(c):Representations have been received by the Commission expressing support as well as reservations in respect of the decision. The decision has been taken on merits and in the interest of maintaining uniform standards of education.

Advisory committee for recognition of qualification

2888. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 711, given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July,2000 and state:

(a) the details including names, etc. of the Chairman, Members, terms of reference and tenure of High Level Committee in the Ministry which advises Government in matters of recognition of qualification; and

(b) by when the High Powered Committee would present its report regarding review of the Mumbai Institute?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The High Level Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary to Government of